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\*Admitted only in Maryland  
\*Admitted only in Virginia  
\*Practice limited to  
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**Attn: Mail Stop AF**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 10/682,536; Filing or 371(c) Date: October 10, 2003  
For: **System, Method, and Computer Program Product for Utilizing  
Proprietary Communication Parameters to Improve Channel  
Efficiency in a DOCSIS-Compliant Broadband Communication  
System**

Inventor: Scott A. CUMMINGS  
Our Ref: 1875.4850000

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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GJP/MRM:bad  
Enclosures

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